

FIFTY YEARS' WORK
AMONGST YOUNG MEN IN ALL LANDS.

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YOUNG MEN

In all Lands.

*A REVIEW OF THE WORK OF THE YOUNG MEN'S
CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS.*

ENGLISH EDITION.

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PREFACE TO ENGLISH EDITION.

IT has been the pleasing thought of the Central International Committee to aid the commemoration of the Jubilee of Young Men's Christian Associations by the publication of a volume containing brief records of work for young men carried on during the past fifty years in the different countries of the world. The difficult nature of the task they thus so kindly imposed on themselves—arising from the diverse forms of the efforts to be described, and the fragmentary character of the material available for compilation—will be readily appreciated. The difficulty was increased by the necessary limitation of time within which the work had to be completed, and by the fact that this exceptional and arduous service devolved upon Mr. Charles Fermaud, the esteemed Secretary of the Committee, in the midst of numerous and pressing calls of duty connected with the carrying through of the arrangements for the Jubilee Conference. These and other considerations rendered necessary the presentation of the several chapters in the precise form in which they were received from the writers whose names they bear; and while these names will be a sufficient guarantee of accuracy, it will necessarily follow that, written as most of the chapters have been from the standpoint of the

individual, without adequate opportunity for consultation, or for revision by the various National and International Committees, the work will be marked by imperfections in the nature of omissions, and possibly here and there, also, by the undue impress of local circumstances. The same remark applies in part to the prefatory notes to the different sections, which have been kindly supplied under circumstances not admitting of their endorsement prior to publication. But, unquestionably, a noble service has been rendered to the cause of Young Men's Christian Associations throughout the world by the way in which the Central International Committee have accomplished their great undertaking. They will receive, as they deserve, the warm thanks of all friends of young men, and hearty congratulations upon the measure of success with which their efforts have been crowned. The information they have collected will furnish an invaluable contribution towards the preparation of an authentic and comprehensive history of the work. Through Divine blessing attending the efforts put forth, the Associations have been the honoured instrumentality of a wide extension of the Redeemer's kingdom among young men; and this volume is issued in the hope and for the purpose of stimulating fresh endeavour, and of awakening devout thankfulness to Him, of whom, through whom, and to whom are all things, and who is over all, God blessed for ever.

W. H. MILLS.

PREFACE TO FRENCH AND GERMAN EDITIONS.

“GLORY BE TO GOD!”

THIS is our Ebenezer! Set up somewhat hastily in preparation for the Jubilee of our Young Men's Christian Association, this stone of remembrance will, no doubt, show many imperfections, due in part to the difficulties arising from distance and diversity of tongues. But, who heeded the ruggedness of the stone which Samuel set up at Mizpeh?

Perhaps in years to come others may rear a worthier monument than ours. Re-hewn by hands more skilled or with better tools, our Ebenezer may become one day worthier of the work it commemorates. Meanwhile, may our beloved Associations receive this first rough outline of their history in the same spirit of heartfelt gratitude which has prompted it—gratitude to the revered founders of the work, but above all to God Himself.

Yes; to God alone be the glory.

Was it not He who stirred, almost at the same moment, in many hearts, in many lands, the blessed thought of the *salvation of the young by the young*. Was it not He who raised up, filled with zeal, directed and sustained by His own

Spirit, the men needed to turn the thought into action? Was it not He who first sent forth the sowers to sow, and then bound together in one international bundle of life the groups great and small of young Christians, who are showing to the Church to-day how unity and diversity, order and liberty, can go hand in hand?

And what He has done in the past will He not still do in the future? What may not another fifty years do for our Association? What chapters may not be added on our centenary to those we have just been writing?

Changes there have been and may yet need to be in the outward forms and accessories of our Associations—changes corresponding to needs ever near—but why may not our Association creep up at least at the same ratio of progress, which has already raised our membership from a few hundreds to 500,000?

Our fellow workers of the ages to come, whom, though yet unborn, we greet to-day, may have to record yet nobler achievements, if only they never forget that the one secret of success is the life of the Spirit of God in the heart, and that love of souls which makes every Christian a missionary. Without any outward aids our forefathers succeeded, because they had in their hearts this fire of first love; and without this, no commodious buildings, no wise organisations, no staff of able secretaries can keep our Association from going to decay.

Nothing can take the place of spiritual life, and spiritual life is one long victory.

Courage then, brothers of to-day and to-morrow! On our knees at the foot of the Cross, where we swear allegiance to our Divine Master, let us ask without ceasing for a renewal of that baptism of life out of which has arisen, among countless other blessed institutions, our Young Men's Christian Association.

The Central International Committee would call attention to the fact that the present history of the Young Men's Christian Association is appearing simultaneously in English, German and French. All the introductory remarks, all the translations and the first chapter which deals with its own history, in fact, the general supervision of the whole, has been its share of the work. The compilation of the main body of the book has been undertaken by the National Committees, each one giving the history of its own Associations. To all these willing co-workers, who have had but little time at their disposal, we express the cordial thanks of the Young Men's Christian Association.

Signed on behalf of the Central International Committee,

President, G. TOPHEL.

General Secretary, CH. FERMAUD.

N.B.—So many delays have occurred in the arrival of the documents expected, during the printing of this volume, that our General Secretary, in spite of prolonged and unremitting efforts, has not been able to give all the time and care he would have desired to the verification and co-ordination of the facts, nor to the work of translation and final revision which he had undertaken. We ask, then, that he may not be held responsible for errors and omissions that may thus have escaped notice.

strikes me also that for the continuous and permanent development of our Association in this part of the great Dark Continent, we need to draw out the prayers and efforts of those of our young people who have themselves received help and blessing from the work, and who might be willing out of gratitude to God, to devote their lives to the good of other young men, and to start and sustain the Association work wherever their lot is cast.

I also feel that it is very important that our older Associations should make themselves models for the younger, by adopting all the methods which are successfully employed elsewhere. Let us pray that the Spirit of Christ may so animate our members that when they leave the Associations in which they have been working, to go to some other part of this continent, they may be constrained by the love of Christ to labour on in a new sphere, striving together in faith and prayer for the salvation of the young men, and the coming of the kingdom of God among them.

E. J. EARP.

(From English Year Book.)

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

Cape Colony.

Cape Town.	Port Elizabeth.
Beaconsfield.	Richmond.
Caledon.	Robertson.
Colesberg.	Stellenbosch.
Graaf-Reinet.	Wellington.
Oudtshoorn.	Worcester.

Natal and Gold Coast.

Durban.	Accra.	Pietermaritzburg.
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5 Buildings, 1 paid Secretary, about 2,300 members.

ASIA.

With the continent of Asia we bring to a close our review of the work of the Young Men's Christian Association. The details that follow seem to us full of hopefulness, and we trust our expectations may not be disappointed.

May the Asiatic branch of the International Alliance spread out and increase in strength and fruitfulness. May it be like that vine which "The Lord planted, and prepared room before it, and caused it to take deep root, and it filled the land. The hills were covered with the shadow of it, and the boughs thereof were like the goodly cedars. It sent out its boughs unto the sea and its branches unto the river." And may the rising generations of Asia come and shelter under its healing shadow, and find there a refuge from the storm of temptation and from the overflowing floods of sin!

JOURNEY OF MR. L. D. WISHARD.

The most important event in the history of Christian Missions, has unquestionably been the transmission of the Gospel from Europe into Asia. And as we look back over the half-century of work done by the Young Men's Christian Association, we feel that its most remarkable feature is its expansion from America and Europe into Asia. If we consider the vast needs of the youth of Asia, and the special adaptation of the Young Men's Christian Association to meet them; if we observe how favourable are present conditions to this work, and how great is the success already achieved by it, we shall hardly be taxed with exaggeration when we say that, during the next half-century the Associations in Asia will probably do greater things for the young men of that vast continent, than anything we have yet seen in Europe and America.

According to the latest reports received, we find that there are 175 Associations in Asia, composed of young natives, in the following proportions: Japan, 20; China, 7; India, 79; Ceylon, 22; Syria, 7; Persia, 2; the Caucasus, 5; Asia Minor, 23; Kurdistan, 1. But the most remarkable point is that at the head of this phalanx of young Asiatic Christians, there is an advance guard of 41 students' Associations. This

fact alone—that the most educated and thoughtful young men are the leaders in the movement—seems to us to prove how solid and stable has been the work done by the Young Men's Christian Association. The work in Asia has from the beginning divided itself into two branches, which we shall speak of separately for greater clearness.

I. YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS IN THE UNIVERSITIES.

There is a large student population in Asia, and their education gives them some influence over their fellow countrymen. It is not too much to say that there are at least 500,000 young men who have passed the preliminary examinations, studying in the higher colleges, and the missionaries feel assured that if these young men are filled with the true missionary spirit, they will do more for Christianity in one generation, than has been accomplished by foreigners in a hundred years. Now this missionary spirit is the very life and soul of the Young Men's Christian Association.

The first students' Association in Asia was founded by Mr. F. K. Saunders in the college of Jaffna, in Ceylon. This was followed by two Associations in China, one of which, at Tungchow, owes its existence to the Rev. H. P. Beach. The fourth Association was founded by Mr. W. C. Kitchin in the Methodist college at Tokio. These four Associations succeeded so well that the missionaries were encouraged to invite the Secretary of the American Students' Association, to pay a visit to Asia. The invitation was signed by a large number of missionaries, and the American International Committee was strongly urged to send men, capable of undertaking the organisation and direction of the movement, in the most important educational institutions in Asia.

First Visit of Exploration. — On receiving the invitation of the missionaries and seeing it signed by the Secretaries of the leading Societies, the American International Committee

felt that it had a guarantee of stability, and might go forward with a good prospect of success. The first thing necessary was, therefore, a careful investigation of the ground to be covered, for the information of those who might be willing to devote themselves to the work, and for the satisfaction of those who would have to provide the funds. The Central International Committee in Geneva undertook to arrange for this preliminary journey. It occupied three years and nine months. Three years were spent in the visitation of Japan, China, Malasia, Siam, Burmah, Ceylon, India, Arabia, Syria, the Caucasus, Persia, Kurdistan, Asia Minor, and Cyprus. In addition, one month was spent in Egypt, and the rest of the time was employed in visiting some of the universities and Young Men's Christian Associations in Europe. In the course of these travels, 216 missionary stations in twenty different countries were visited. The route traced included not only places comparatively near the coast, but often necessitated long journeys on horseback into the interior, sometimes covering as great a distance as from New York to San Francisco, or from London to Constantinople by way of St. Petersburg. As a result of these journeys, relations were entered into with at least 960 missionaries, and 300 more were present at the public meetings which were held. In these meetings, thousands of students listened to our appeals, and we had interviews with hundreds of them in most of the large colleges in the East. We also had many opportunities of discussing the work with men of business, Government *employés*, and the pastors and members of the Churches. We took the utmost pains to inform ourselves exactly, on the state of the Church in Asia, and to ascertain how far the country was prepared for the work proposed.

Favourable Conditions on the Continent of Asia for the Spread of Christianity.—During the three years spent in association with the students in Asia, we became convinced that they as a body are favourably disposed to Christianity. In fact, through the spread of education, their old religious beliefs are be-

coming gradually undermined. At the same time they are directly interested in the problems of self-government, and are profoundly impressed with the fact that Christianity is the only religion of self-governing nations. They are favourably disposed towards scholars coming from the West. It is from them they have received all their enlightened ideas; from among them have come their most eminent professors. They are therefore predisposed to hear what we have to say in defence of a religion, which has shown itself so compatible with high-class scholarship.

It is a striking thing this homogeneity of the student world! There is more resemblance than difference between the students of the East and the West. This is easily understood if we reflect that the present system of education in the East, was established by Professors coming from the West; and that these are still in many places the leaders in the intellectual movement. It is not unreasonable then to believe that any movement, religious or social, will find more ready acceptance if it comes from the West to the East, than if the position were reversed. If Christianity once gains a solid footing in the universities of Asia, the conservatism which is so marked a feature of Eastern life, will ensure the conservation of its energy.

The Religious Crisis in the Universities.—There is one momentous fact in the mental attitude of the young men of the educated classes in Asia. They perceive that they and their forefathers have been utterly deceived by false systems of so called "supernaturalism," and they are therefore in danger of abruptly rejecting all the supernatural. This tendency to scepticism is strengthened by the materialism, which unhappily sweeps over them like a flood from the West. At the same time we ask ourselves, are they likely to wait till the Gospel reaches them, if we continue to present it to them in such a leisurely and listless way as hitherto? They are on the point now of making their unalterable decision. It is *now* or *never* the work must be done among the educated young men of

Asia; and we tremble as we think how the masses on the great continent will follow the initiative of the universities. We adduce a few facts to prove the truth of what we say, that now is the critical moment for an energetic, aggressive movement on behalf of Christianity, among the students of Asia.

Christianity in the Christian Schools.—In the first place, Christianity is solidly established in most of the Christian schools of Japan, China, Persia, Burmah and Ceylon, in the Turkish Empire, in Egypt, and in some of the schools in India. As a rule, the majority of the students in the Christian colleges of these countries are members of Christian Churches, except perhaps in India. It was not so in the colleges and Christian schools of the West, at the beginning of this century.

Christianity in the Government Schools.—There are more Christians in the principal Government schools—in seven of them at least—in Japan, than could be found in the same number of Christian universities in the West a century ago. After careful enquiry we have come to the conclusion that 7 per cent. of the 3,000 students in the seven principal cities of Japan are Christians.

Preparedness of the Students to accept Christ.—We find among all the students, and especially in Japan, a remarkable readiness to respond to appeals, in which Christ is presented to them as their Lord and Saviour. After a series of Gospel meetings, followed by personal interviews with the students in the University of Doshika at Kioto, 103 students were, after careful examination, admitted into the Church in one day; 40 others were received at the following Communion season. 30 students from the Union College of Tokio, and 35 from the preparatory school of Kumanoto, took the same step; and 7 students in the Methodist College of Fouchow, China publicly confessed their faith in Christ. There were also, during our visit, conversions in the schools in India, Ceylon and Asia Minor. These are facts sufficient to bear out our

statement, that a really enlightened and rightly organised movement, led by the students themselves, might produce remarkable results in this country.

The Ground prepared for such Organisation.—The students in Asia are prepared to receive such an organisation. There are already 41 Young Men's Christian Associations among them—15 in Japan, 11 of which are in Japanese Government colleges; 5 in China, 6 in India, 6 in Ceylon, 1 in Syria, 2 in Persia, 1 in Kurdistan, and 5 in Asia Minor. The work of the Young Men's Christian Association, is the only Christian endeavour which the Government has hitherto tolerated in its schools. One of the best organised Associations of this kind is that of Tungchow, near Peking. Beside all the branches of work carried on in the other students' Associations, this Society has a regular monthly missionary meeting for the study of the progress of Christianity throughout the world; and so great is their interest in the cause, that they recently undertook the maintenance of a student in a school in Africa, where he is being trained for evangelistic work among his own people.

II.—THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION AMONG OTHER CLASSES OF YOUNG MEN.

In our work in Asia, we are anxious to enrol all the educated young men, to place them at the head of well-organised Associations, and to see them engaged in evangelistic work among the young. The difficulties in the way of this endeavour are so great, that they can only be overcome by an Association truly inspired of God, and carried on in His strength.

One of the first difficulties that meet us is the vastness of the population. It is probable that Asia contains at least 160,000,000 young men. The next difficulty arises from the state of degradation and superstition in which they have lived for centuries, or from the fanaticism which prompts them

to look upon all strangers as enemies and barbarians. The youth of the East are the slaves of all forms of immorality and vice, and do not even strive to break their bonds, except as they are reached by the purifying influence of Christianity. These hindrances to the work are common throughout all Asia, and there are other obstacles peculiar to certain classes and nationalities. The young men of India, for example, are the slaves of a system of caste, which bears but a remote relation to any class distinctions (not even excepting slavery), with which we are familiar in the West. Then, the young men who live in the seaports and in towns inhabited by certain classes of Europeans and Americans, come into contact with Western forms of extravagance and license, by which they become frightfully demoralised, and which they have learned to regard as characteristics of Christian civilisation. If to this we add all the evils resulting from the traffic in opium and alcohol, forced upon India and China, we shall see that in the crusade upon which we have entered we have indeed to wrestle, "not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

Of the 175 Young Men's Christian Associations in Asia, there are 124 not connected with the universities. Those of Tokio, Kioto, Osaka, Nagoya are the best organised among the 14 in the towns of Japan. In China there has been for several years a very active Association at Amoy. In the island of Ceylon, the first Young Men's Christian Association was organised in Colombo twelve years ago. The work has gone on without interruption ever since, and 14 other Associations have been founded in the island.

In India, the first Association of which we know anything, and probably the first in Asia, is that of Trevandrum, Travancore, founded in 1873. The Associations of Bombay (1875) and of Madras (1890) have worked together, and by a vigorous effort have successfully organised a National Alliance, which now numbers nearly 100 Young Men's Christian Associations.

to the fifteen vessels in which I travelled. In many of the railway carriages also I came across old members of the Young Men's Christian Association, who recognised me by my badge and by my "bit of blue," or in whom I discerned the seal of the common brotherhood in Christ.

In conclusion, I may say that this journey of 32,000 miles, undertaken by me at the close of my twenty-seventh year of work in connection with the Young Men's Christian Association, confirmed my conviction that our work is truly of God, and that therefore He is making it to grow. Never have we had so many occasions for thankfulness to God as now, and I have often been struck with the truth of this promise: "My Word shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I send it."

W. HIND SMITH.

(Extract from *English Year Book*.)

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

China	...	...	...	...	...	7	✓
Ceylon	...	...	...	...	...	22	
Syria	...	...	...	...	...	7	
Persia	...	...	...	...	...	2	
The Caucasus	...	...	...	...	...	5	
Asia Minor	...	...	...	...	...	23	
Kurdistan	...	...	...	...	...	1	
						67	

There are, beside the Associations mentioned in the foregoing chapter, still others in several countries. We subjoin a list of those from which we have recent information.

European Turkey: Constantinople, W. W. Peet, Bible House.

Greece: Athens, Xénophon P. Moschou, 36, Odos Mauro-michalè.

Armenia: Adana, Aintab (Central Turkey) College; Aintab (City)—Hagop Bubulyan, *Hon. Sec.*; Adiaman, Albustan, Amasia, Bardezag (High School), Bitias, Bitlis (High School), Biridjik, Erzerum (High School), Hadjin, Harpoot (Euphrates College), Hassan Beily, Kilis, Marash, Marsovan (Anatolia College), Oorfa, Scutari, Severeck, Tarsus (St. Paul's Institute), Vlanga, Yagonolook, Zeitoon.

Argentina: Buenos Ayres, Mr. A. E. Holder, 87, Avenida de Mayo.

Uruguay: Montevideo, Mr. H. F. Pratt, Calle Rio Negro 216.

Brazil: Rio de Janeiro, Myron A. Clark, Rua da Assembleia.

Hawai: Honolulu, D. W. Corbett, Secretary.

Hayti: Port-au-Prince, A. Diew, President.

Madagascar: Antananarivo and Fianarantsoa.

Ceylon: Bambalapitiya, Changanay, Colombo, Galle, Jaffna (Central College), Moratmulla, Navali, Oodooville, Pallai, Point Pedro, Royal College, St. John's College, Tillypally, Trincomalee, Wesley College, Wolfendahl.

